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Approved For Release 2000/06/13 : CIA-RDP75-0000

MAR 17 1959

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Russia Isn't Ready

HYSERICAL talk of the possibility, even probability, of nuclear war growing out of the acute Berlin crisis is not based on the realities of the situation, in the opinion of top U. S.

intelligence officials. Russia is not prepared to bring on a nuclear war and wants a 15-year period of peace to develop economic, military and political strength. This is the conviction of Robert Amory Jr., deputy director for intelligence of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Amory reports that a year and half ago Soviet leaders agreed that a 15-year period without major hostilities was imperative to the growth of their nation. At present the Russian economy is not mobilized for war or preparing for war, intelligence reports indicate.

Premier Khrushchev is not

ready to risk a nuclear war over Berlin, but "expects to force us to chicken out," Amory says. He predicts that if the West is resolute, the Soviet Union will be the one to crack down. Evidently, this line of thinking from the Central Intelligence Agency has influenced President Eisenhower to take the firm stand on Berlin and the adequacy of this country's defenses that have characterized his recent statements.

Evidently the CIA gave more than ordinary consideration to the propriety of making public an analysis of the possible consequences of the Berlin crisis based on intelligence reports. The Amory statement was made in that high official's first on-the-record talk in four years.

Surely it was made in official expectation it would clear the air of hysteria and solidly support of the President.